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Message Text

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PAGE 01 TUNIS 05554 080652Z
ACTION INR-10

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 AID-05 CEA-01 CIAE-00
COME-00 EB-08 EUR-12 FRB-03 NSAE-00 SP-02 STR-07
TRSE-00 LAB-04 SIL-01 OMB-01 /065 W
----------127645 081039Z /16
R 071400Z AUG 78
FM AMEMBASSY TUNIS
TO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2063

C O N F I D E N T I A L TUNIS 5554

BRUSSELS FOR USEEC

E.O.11652: GDS
TAGS: EEC TS PINT
SUBJ: APPOINTMENT OF NEW TUNISIAN AMBASSADOR TO EC & BELGIUM
M'HAMED ESSAAFI

REF: BRUSSELS 15144

1. M'HAMED ESSAAFI, TUNISIA'S NEWAMBASSADOR TO THE EC AND BRUSSELS, HAS BEEN SECRETARY GENERAL FOR ADMINISTRATION AT THE FOREIGN MINISTRY SINCE MID-1976. HE WAS BORN IN KELIBIA ON CAP BON IN 1930. HE RECEIVED HIS SECONDARY EDUCATION AT THE COLLEGE SADIKI IN TUNIS WHERE MOST OF THE TUNISIAN NATIONAL LEADERSHIP WAS TRAINED AND RECEIVED HIS HIGHER EDUCATION AT THE SORBONNE IN PARIS, SPECIALIZING IN ENGLISH STUDIES.

2. ESSAAFI JOINED THE TUNISIAN DIPLOMATIC SERVICE IN 1956 AND SERVED IN LONDON, WASHINGTON AND TUNIS (AS AMERICAN DESK OFFICER) IN HIS EARLY CAREER. HE RECEIVED HIS FIRST AMBASSADORIAL APPOINTMENT IN 1964 TOLONDON AND SINCE THEN HAS BEEN AMBASSADOR IN MOSCOW (WITH CONCURRENT ACCREDITATION TO WARSAW AND HANOI) AND BONN. HE RETURNED
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TO TUNIS FROM BONN IN 1976 TO BECOME SECRETARY GENERAL FOR ADMINISTRATION AT FOR FOREIGNMINISTRY.

3. ESSAAFI, WHO HAS A REPUTATION FOR BEING INTELLIGENT, POISED, AND ENERGETIC, WAS A PROTEGE OF HABIB BOURGUIBA, JR., WHILE THE PRESIDENT'S SON FOR FOREIGN MINISTER. ESSAAFI HAS IMPRESSED AMERICAN OFFICIALS WITH

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HIS CANDOR AND HIS COMPETENCE AND HE IS WELL DISPOSED
TOWARD THE UNITED STAES. IN OUR OPINION, HE IS ONE OF
THE BEST OFFICERS IN TUNISIA'S PROFESSIONAL DIPLOMATIC
SERVICE.

4. ESSAAFI IS MARRIED TO A WOMAN WHO WAS BORN IN
BEIRUT. THEY BOTH SPEAK FRENCH, ARABIC, ITALIAN AND
ENGLISH. THE HAVE 3 CHILDREN, TWO BOYS AND ONE GIRL. THEY WILL
TRAVEL WITH THE ESSAAFIS TO BELGIUM, ALTHOUGH ONE SON MAY
GO TO BOARDING SCHOOL IN SWITZERLAND. THE ESSAAFIS PLAN
TO ARRIVE IN BRUSSELS IN LATE AUGUST.
MULCAHY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AMBASSADORS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 07 aug 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Litigation History:
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Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 BRUSSELS 15144
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Date: 19 may 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1814686
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
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